Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently amended)** A ~~heat exchanger~~ charge-air cooler having tubes and at least one header box to which the tubes are connected, the header box being configured to receive hot compressed charge-air that is subject to rapid pressure changes and having at least one tube plate, the tube plate having (i) a substantially planar central region with tube openings formed therein [[,]] and into which the tubes [[can be]] are fitted and secured with a sealed joint, and (ii) at least one side region which is rounded with a substantially constant radius of curvature ~~or angled off~~ with respect to the central region, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one tube opening extends from within the generally planar central region at least up to the at least one side region ~~or into the at least one side region~~ and wherein the at least one tube opening is delimited by a rim which extends out of the tube plate in a direction away from the at least one header box, whereby said rounded side portion of the tube plate and said rim adjacent to said rounded side portion form in cross-section a generally S-shaped configuration sufficient to decrease load on said sealed joint as a result of said joint being subjected to rapid pressure changes exerted by the hot compressed charge-air.

2. **(Cancel)**

3. **(Cancel)** .

4. **(Currently amended)** The heat exchanger as claimed in claim ~~3, characterized in that~~ 1, wherein the at least one side region has a plurality of rounded portions with different radii of curvature.

5. **(Currently amended)** The ~~heat exchanger~~ charge-air cooler as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one side region is convex in form viewed from the side of the tube plate facing away from the header box.

6. **(Cancel)**

7. **(Cancel)**

8. **(Cancel)**

9. **(Cancel)**

10. **(New)** A charge-air cooler having tubes and at least one header box to which the tubes are connected, the header box having at least one tube plate and being configured to receive hot compressed charge-air that is subject to rapid pressure changes, the tube plate having (i) a planar central region with tube openings formed therein and into which the tubes are fitted and secured with a sealed joint, and (ii) at least one side region which is rounded with a substantially constant radius of curvature with respect to the central region, and means for decreasing load on said sealed joint as a result of said joint being subjected to rapid pressure changes exerted by the hot compressed charge-air, said means comprising the at least one tube opening extending from within the generally planar central region at least up to the at least one side region and the at least one tube opening being delimited by a rim which extends out of the tube plate.

11. **(New)** A charge-air cooler as claimed in claim 10, wherein the rim extends in a direction toward the at least one header box and wherein the at least one tube opening extends into the at least one side region by a distance large enough to cause the rim in the at least one side region to extend out of the tube plate by a distance that is less than the distance the rim extends in the planar central region of the tube plate, whereby

there is formed a reduced area for pressure-induced deformation of the tube plate to act on said sealed joint.

12. **(New)** A charge-air cooler as claimed in claim 10, wherein the rim extends in a direction away from the at least one header box and wherein said rounded side portion of the tube plate and said rim adjacent to said rounded side portion form in cross-section a generally S-shaped configuration sufficient to decrease load on said sealed joint as a result of said joint being subjected to rapid pressure changes exerted by the hot compressed charge-air.